

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment and Response to Election/restrictions Requirement in reply to the election/restrictions requirement mailed December 29, 2004.

By this Amendment and Response to Election/restrictions Requirement, Applicants amend claims 41, 52, and 62. Support for the amended subject matter can be found, for example, at least in Figs. 1-6, and the corresponding written description of those figures. Claims 18-37 and 41-68 remain pending in this application.

In the election/restrictions requirement, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions:

I. Claims 18-34, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to a device for transferring blood from a vessel to another area with a myocardial liner;

II. Claims 35-37, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to a method of supporting a vascular wall; and

III. Claims 41-68, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to a stent and methods of providing blood flow from a heart chamber to a coronary vessel with the stent having an agent and an outer covering or both an inner and outer covering.

Applicants respectfully elect Group I, Claims 41-68, with traverse.

In the election/restrictions requirement, the Examiner also required election of one of the following allegedly patentably distinct species:

Apparatus

Species I: Figs. 1, 2

Species II: Fig. 3

Lining and coverings

Species A.: inner

Species B: outer

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Species III: Fig. 4

Species C: both

Species IV: Fig. 5

Applicants respectfully elect Species C for prosecution, with traverse. Claims 41-68 are all "readable on" the elected species.

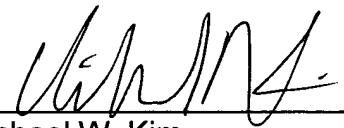
Applicants do not necessarily agree with the various characterizations and/or assertions regarding the claims and alleged patentable distinct groups and species. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution Applicants make the election above.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and Response to Election/restrictions Requirement and charge any required fees not otherwise provided for to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 28, 2005

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